

May 20, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZATION FOR THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
JUSTICE, BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE, FOR PROJECT SENTRY a.k.a.  
JUVENILE GUN PROSECUTION PROGRAM (JGPP)  
(ALL DISTRICTS) (4-Vote)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Authorize the District Attorney's Office to accept grant funds, on behalf of the County of Los Angeles, from the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), for the District Attorney's Project Sentry a.k.a. Juvenile Gun Prosecution Program (JGPP). The BJA will provide funds for a two-year period, from January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2004, in the amount of \$1,000,000.
2. Authorize the District Attorney to execute the Grant Award Agreement on behalf of the County of Los Angeles.
3. Authorize the District Attorney, pursuant to County Code Section 6.06.020, to fill the following "N" item positions, pending allocation by the Department of Human Resources: three Deputy District Attorney (DDA) III's for the Project Sentry Program.

4. Approve the attached Budget Adjustment in the amount of \$250,000, for FY 2002-2003, which begins the first year of a two-year funding cycle, to allocate spending authority necessary to implement this program. Grant funding for the remainder of year one and year two will be included in the District Attorney's budget for Fiscal Years 2003-2004 and 2004-2005.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The District Attorney's Office has been awarded grant funding from BJA in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the period January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2004. This program employs three Deputy District Attorney III's who are assigned to the Hardcore Gang Division. These vertical prosecutors will actively prosecute juveniles who violate federal and state firearm laws in three juvenile court jurisdictions (Eastlake, Compton and Kenyon) with the highest number of gun crimes throughout the Los Angeles County. The aggressive follow-up by law enforcement and a zero tolerance for probation violations, will ensure focused efforts to reduce illegal gun possession by youth in these three Los Angeles County communities.

**Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The focus of this program is consistent with the County's Vision and Strategic Plan in that it supports the County's "philosophy of teamwork and collaboration". Project Sentry enhances local partnerships and multi-agency efforts with law enforcement, ATF, the U.S. Attorney for the Central District, the Department of Probation, Juvenile Court, and other agencies to target juvenile firearms offenses in central and south-central Los Angeles.

**FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:**

The total cost of this program is \$1,000,000 for a two-year period beginning January 1, 2003 and ending December 31, 2004. The BJA is providing 100 percent of this cost; therefore, there is no net County cost impact.

The two-year grant funding cycle overlaps three County fiscal years. The grant funds were not included in our FY 2002-2003 adopted budget and thus a budget adjustment in the amount of \$250,000 is necessary to cover the period of January 1 to June 30, 2003. The remainder of the first year and second year funds will be included in future budgets for FY 2003-2004 (\$500,000) and FY 2004-2005 (\$250,000) respectively.

**FINANCING:**

SOURCE:	Bureau of Justice Assistance Office of Justice Programs A01 - 14030 - 9001	\$250,000
USE:	Los Angeles County District Attorney's Project Sentry – Juvenile Gun Prosecution Program A01 – 14030 - 1000	\$250,000

The BJA will reimburse the County for the salary and employee benefits of three Deputy District Attorney III's assigned to the JGPP.

If grant funding for this program were terminated, an evaluation would be conducted to determine whether the program will either be continued with costs being absorbed by the department or discontinued with the reallocation of staff to vacant budgeted positions.

**FACTS AND PROVISIONS:**

The purpose of this program is to implement a collaborative, geographically specific, gang-related vertical prosecution program targeting juvenile gang members with guns for aggressive prosecution and follow-up. The project seeks to reduce illegal gun possession by juvenile gang members, thereby reducing or eliminating gun violence in the targeted communities. The program also targets gun dealers and adults who illegally purchase or provide firearms to juveniles or those who contribute to a juvenile committing a violent crime using a firearm, especially those occurring in and around schools.

This grant provides 100% funding for three full-time positions as reported on the attached Grant Management Statement.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS):**

Pursuant to your Board's motion of December 15, 1998, the Public Defender, Alternate Public Defender, Sheriff and Probation Departments have been notified of this request. The Probation Department has determined that there will be minimal impact on their workload; however, it can be managed with existing resources. The Public Defender and Alternate Public Defender have determined that this program will impact their current workload; however, they are unable to measure the impact at this time. The Sheriff's Department has indicated that there is no impact to their department.

**Comment:** Pending response



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**CONCLUSION:**

Following Board action on this Agreement, the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board is requested to return two copies of the adopted board letter and Budget Adjustment, containing original signatures, to Ms. Rowena Asai, Grants Analyst, Los Angeles County District Attorney, 201 North Figueroa Street, Suite 1300, Los Angeles, California 90012. Any questions may be directed to Rowena Asai at [Rasai@da.co.la.ca.us](mailto:Rasai@da.co.la.ca.us), or (213) 202-7668.

Very truly yours,

STEVE COOLEY  
District Attorney

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Enclosure

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel